

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 21, 2019

The Honorable Kristine L. Svinicki
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16G4
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Svinicki,

We write to urge you to direct the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff to delay final ruling on the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station license transfer request from Entergy and Holtec (Docket No. 50-293 & 72-1004) until after the Commission has ruled upon the petitions and motion currently in the proceeding docket, including the petition filed last week by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We also wish to express our support for the petition filed by the Commonwealth to request extra time in which to file a stay application, following the official order from NRC staff on the license transfer.

NRC staff evaluated the application to transfer the Pilgrim license from Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. to Holtec International and Holtec Decommissioning International and have recommended that it be approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission next week. As part of these proceedings, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Pilgrim Watch, a local citizens' organization, both filed petitions to intervene and for hearing requests. An additional petition from the Commonwealth to stay the proceedings was denied by the Commission on August 14, 2019, in part because the NRC staff had not yet issued the official order for the license transfer.

On August 15, 2019, the Commonwealth filed an emergency motion asking the NRC for a short enlargement of time to file a stay application on the license transfer pursuant to 10 CFR Section 2.307 and 10 CFR Section 2.1325, in order to allow the Attorney General's office more time to discuss a settlement with Entergy and Holtec. The citizen group Pilgrim Watch wrote in support of that emergency motion. A ruling from the NRC on this emergency motion is still pending.

The Commission has prioritized nuclear industry timelines over the public interest throughout the license transfer and decommissioning process, and it appears to be moving forward without regard for the repeated expression of stakeholder concerns. As Holtec and Entergy refuse to sit down and discuss the transfer with involved state and local parties, the Commission's

intervention is increasingly necessary for transparency and a rigorous evaluation of the transfer request. As a result, we express our support for the Commonwealth's application to extend the timeline for intervention to allow for more time to reach a settlement with Entergy and Holtec as well as for the dual petitions for hearings and interventions.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



William R. Keating
Member of Congress